



September 2002

Home Health Agency Update



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Health Facilities

Welcome to this edition of Home Health Agency Update, a newsletter published by the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities. Administrators, please share this newsletter with your home health agency staff.

Inside this issue:

Oasis Update 1

General Information 2



OASIS UPDATE

1. The Outcome Based Quality Improvement Videotape was sent to all Medicare-certified home health agencies on Aug. 13, 2002. We hope you had an opportunity to watch the presentations by Debbie Baier and David McCowan and are finding it useful as you begin implementing the OBQI process.
2. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing changes to the OASIS data set in response to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) department-wide initiative to reduce regulatory burdens in health care and to address concerns of health care providers, state and local governments and individual Americans who are affected by DHHS rules.

CMS announced a proposed plan to reduce both the total number of items collected by 27 percent and the time spent collecting OASIS data by 25 percent. The changes include moving 18 demographic items to a patient-tracking form that will need to be completed only at the start of care. RFA 02 and 10 assessments will be eliminated, and RFA 04 and 05 assessments will be reduced to the 23 payment items plus a few other fields. At this time, there will be no major changes to the OBQI/OBQM reports or HHA-PPS payment policy.

After 30 years I have decided to retire from the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities. I have enjoyed working with you and your staff over the years and wish you continued success as you provide quality health care for the people of North Dakota. Should you need assistance or have questions, contact Roger Unger, Director, at 701.328.2352.

Carole Klebe

Oasis Update (cont.)

The proposed changes to OASIS are currently in the clearance process within CMS and will not be implemented until the Office of Management and Budget approves them. The first phase of the HHA Reduced Burden is planned for December 2002 (hopefully) and will include new data specifications. Also, a new OASIS-B1 (12-2002) is being drafted. The second phase of this project will include a thorough review of all OASIS items for further reduction. In addition, a national satellite training session is being planned for mid-November 2002, and a software vendor teleconference was held Aug. 28, 2002 to assist software vendors in understanding the proposed changes.

3. On July 31, 2002 CMS hosted a special open door meeting at CMS in Baltimore for all individuals and groups interested in discussing the proposed OASIS changes. Information concerning that meeting is available on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis/hhnew.asp>.
4. The proposed draft OASIS – B1 (12/2002) data sets and the proposed Draft Data Submission Specification – Versions 1.30 are now available on the OASIS: What's New page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis/hhnew.asp>. This site includes a description of the changes in the Draft OASIS-B1 (12/2002) Data Sets, clarification of the proposed OASIS item deletions, the new Patient Tracking Sheet, one new item to facilitate HIPAA compliance, assessment deletions, reduced OASIS collection at Recertification/Follow-up, directions for submission and software vendors and the effective date.
5. CMS has changed the format for presenting the frequently asked questions on its new cms.hhs.gov website. CMS OASIS Home Page is now <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis>. The purpose of this site is to store and disseminate policy and technical information related to the OASIS data set for use in home health agencies. Please check these pages frequently.

? REMINDER

The federal server will be down on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Central Time for system and database maintenance. No OASIS submission or OBQI/OBQM Reports requests may be made during this time.



WEBSITES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

As of July 7, 2002 the new location of the OASIS Home Page is www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis. If the old website is saved as a favorite, the link will still work for a time.

www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/oasishmp to
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis> - OASIS Home Page

www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hhmain.htm to
<http://cms.hhs.gov/providers/hhapps/default.asp>—
HHA PPS billing questions

- www.health.state.nd.us — Past and current HHA Update newsletters are available at this site.
- www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/transmit/R21SOM.pdf —Home health conditions of participation.
- To view the Feb. 22, 2002, satellite broadcast that introduced the Outcome Based Quality Improvement (OBQI) reports, you must register as an individual at <http://cms.distributedclassroom.org>. This webcast will be available until Oct. 31, 2002.
- Medicare Data Communication Network (MDCN): 1.800.905.2069

HAVEN Help Desk: 1.877.201.4721



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Health Facilities
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2352
Fax: 701.328.1890
Website: www.health.state.nd.us

Terry L. Dwelle, M.D., MPHTM
State Health Officer
Darleen Bartz, Chief,
Health Resources Section
Roger Unger, Director
Carole Klebe, Manager